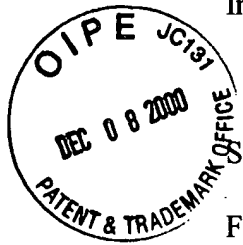


10a
S. 300d
9/10/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of:

Group Art Unit No.: 2776

Boris Klots, et al.

Examiner: NYA

Serial No.: 09/298,603

Filed on: April 23, 1999

For: COMMUNICATION ARCHITECTURE FOR
DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING ENVIRONMENT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the
application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1 1. A method for processing data on a distributed computing system that includes a
2 plurality of nodes, the method comprising the steps of:
3 maintaining mapping data that specifies work that can be performed by each of the
4 plurality of nodes;
5 in response to receiving a first work request to perform first work from a first
6 process on a first node from the plurality of nodes, determining based
7 upon the first work and the mapping data, that the first work is to be
8 performed on a second node from the plurality of nodes; and
9 providing the first work request to a second process on the second node, wherein
10 the first work request specifies that the first process is to receive results of
11 the first work directly from the second process.

- 1 2. The method as recited in Claim 1, further including the steps of